

HONORING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT MAJOR RAY V. WILBURN (RET.)

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2018

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of retired United States Marine Corps Sergeant Major Ray V. Wilburn, who passed away on January 2, 2018 at the age of 98. Born in Wolf City, Texas in 1919, Sgt. Maj. Wilburn hitchhiked 75 miles to enlist in the Marine Corps in 1939. Following the outbreak of World War II, he was assigned to 3rd Artillery Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment in the Solomon Islands. His unit eventually saw combat on the islands of Guadalcanal, Tarawa, and Tulagi.

At the beginning of the Korean War, Sgt. Maj. Wilburn was an artillery instructor at Camp Del Mar, California, but in 1951 he received orders to serve with the 2nd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment in Korea. His unit was assigned to Artillery Valley where they endured constant barrages of enemy fire from 122mm rounds.

In 1967, Sgt. Maj. Wilburn was sent to Vietnam with the 1st Medical Battalion where he was lauded by his superiors for his leadership and mettle. Nightly Viet Cong mortar attacks forced he and his fellow Marines to perform their duties in flak vests and helmets.

The Marine Corps granted Sgt. Maj. Wilburn's request to serve more than 30 years, however in 1971 he was forced to medically retire after 31 years of service. If given the opportunity, I have no doubt that Sgt. Maj. Wilburn would have served his beloved Marine Corps another 31 years. I would like to pass along my condolences to his family and friends, and I thank God everyday for men like Sgt. Maj. Wilburn. Semper Fi.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2018

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote for roll call vote 18 on January 16, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 18.

AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT AND MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE ACT MODERNIZATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3445, African Growth and Opportunity Act and Millennium Challenge Act ("AGOA and MCA Modernization Act"), because it provides assistance to certain sub-Saharan African countries to improve their economies and foster trade with the U.S.

I have long supported trade ties between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa, as I believe this trade relationship would be mutually advantageous for both parties involved.

In 2016, 39 of the 48 countries in sub-Saharan Africa were designated as AGOA-eligible, according to the House Foreign Affairs Committee's report on the bill.

Top imports to the U.S. under AGOA include energy products, transportation equipment, and textiles, according to the International Trade Administration.

The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is a foreign aid agency that provides grants to lower-income countries for specific projects to promote economic growth.

It invests in countries through compacts—which have ranged from \$66 million in Cape Verde to almost \$700 million in Morocco and Tanzania—as well as smaller "threshold agreements" that help countries become eligible for a compact, according to the committee report.

It has distributed \$10.8 billion through compacts and \$583.6 million through threshold agreements.

With Africa's consumer spending expected to reach one trillion dollars, now is the time to accelerate this important trade relationship.

The AGOA program and the MCC would have new responsibilities and reporting requirements under an amended version of H.R. 3445.

Under H.R. 3445, the president would have to establish a website for AGOA that includes information about technical assistance provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development's regional trade hubs and links to U.S. embassies in AGOA countries.

After each U.S.-Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum, H.R. 3445 would require the president to publish the outcomes and an assessment of progress made by members and the private sector toward meeting previous commitments.

Under H.R. 3445, the State Department would have to direct U.S. embassies in sub-Saharan Africa to promote AGOA and link to the AGOA website on their websites.

The president would be directed to:

Develop policies and encourage the provision of technical assistance to facilitate trade cooperation among AGOA countries;

Train businesses and government officials on how to access AGOA benefits; and

Provide capacity building for African entrepreneurs and trade associations.

H.R. 3445 would set new requirements for AGOA's website and outreach work.

H.R. 3445 would modify country eligibility criteria for MCC compacts and allow countries to enter into concurrent compacts.

According to a committee summary, H.R. 3445 would redefine and stabilize movement between the low income and lower middle income candidate country pools, consistent with authorizing language that has been carried in annual appropriations bills since FY 2012.

According to the committee report, countries would be eligible for assistance if their per capita income does not exceed the lower middle income country threshold established by the World Bank's International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which is \$4,035.

Countries would be eligible for low income assistance if their per capita income is among the 75 lowest countries.

Otherwise, they would still be eligible for lower middle income assistance.

The formula under current law is not based on an income ranking.

If changes in a country's income caused it to move between categories, its assistance level would change after two subsequent fiscal years.

H.R. 3445 would also require countries to demonstrate a commitment to supporting civil society to be eligible for participation.

Before being selected for participation, the MCC would have to report to its governing board on the country's treatment of civil society and any laws it has that regulate the freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, and internet use.

The reports would be required before the board approved compacts for the next seven years.

A country's improvement on criteria that were relevant to its initial compact would be considered when determining eligibility for a subsequent, non-concurrent compact.

We should support the efforts of the AGOA program as it provides assistance to sub-Saharan African countries, improves these countries' economies, and helps to facilitate trade between these countries and the U.S.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3445.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WORLD WAR II VETERAN JOSEPH A. BRUNO

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2018

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Joseph A. Bruno, a World War II Veteran who passed away on December 20, 2017.

Originally from Willsboro, New York, Joe enlisted in the United States Army in the Fall of 1942, where he served his country as a member of the Signal Corps. After completing signals training at Plattsburgh State Teachers College in June of 1942 and receiving follow-on training, Joe deployed to England with his unit. On July 22, 1944, Joe's unit landed in France, where he worked to establish a trans-Atlantic communications capability. Later, during the Battle of the Bulge, Joe and his unit were rushed to the front lines to hold the line against a German advance. Following the German surrender in 1945, Joe was slated to be shipped to the Pacific theater. His unit received word of Japan's surrender while at sea, and his ship was diverted to Boston.

In October of 1945, Joe was discharged from the Army at the rank of Technician Fifth Grade and returned to his hometown in Willsboro, where he worked with the railroad until his retirement in 1979.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I would like to offer my deepest condolences to Joe's family and friends. Joe was an exemplary member of the community and his service to his country will not be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DENVER CHINESE SCHOOL

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2018

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 20th Anniversary of the Denver Chinese School (DCS). This exemplary cultural institution has provided our community with numerous intrinsic services which include education in Chinese culture and language, as well as the opportunity for Chinese Americans to work in collaboration with each other to further enrich and grow in Colorado. I am proud to represent the largest Chinese community in Colorado in my Congressional District.

Founded by current President HuiLiang Liu, DCS started as a single class in the Chinese Evangelical Church of Denver, today, the Denver Chinese School encompasses three different campuses located in Highlands Ranch, the Denver Tech Center, and Lakewood, with over 400 students, 80 staff members, and countless volunteers. Today, it is the largest Chinese school in Colorado.

The incredible value of Denver Chinese School has been recognized both at home and abroad. DCS has been certified by the Chinese Association as a "Model School," and its curriculum has been incorporated into the Douglas County School District. Students are now able to take classes, directed and taught by dedicated staffmembers, teachers, and volunteers, and receive high school credit.

The Denver Chinese School provides services which aim to enlighten the community with educational and cultural enrichment. DCS events, like the Colorado Chinese New Year Celebration (CNYC), provide a platform that brings communities together to network, engage with political figures, and obtain cultural awareness.

Throughout its 20 years of service, DCS has proved itself to be an excellent organization and a valuable asset to the state of Colorado. I look forward to, and wish the Denver Chinese School nothing but continued success in its future. I include in the RECORD the names of all DCS principals who have served over the past 20 years.

DCS Principals:
DCS one campus:
1998 to 2004: Huiliang Liu
2004-2006: Ann Qi
DTC Campus
2006-2008: Jianqiu Han
2008-2011: Jianhui Shen
2011-2013: Yiping Luo
2013-2015: Jing Mei
2015-Present: Bin Zhang
Highlands Ranch Campus
2006-2008: Yunhan Zheng
2008-2010: Weichang Zhang
2010-2012: Wenhua Hua
2012-2015: Rui Ding
2015-2017: Xiaoyan Li
2017-Present: Xiuping Wang
Lakewood Campus
2010-2011: Jeane Huang
2011-2013: Qingzhong Zhao
2013-2015: Lily Han
2015-2017: Chunhe Dai
2017-Present: Liang Chen

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. EARNEST "ERDIE" GREEN

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2018

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend a respected athlete, an accomplished businessman, a Georgia native, and a distinguished graduate of William H. Spencer High School in Columbus, Georgia, Mr. Earnest "Ernie" Green. As the U.S. Representative for the 2nd Congressional District, I am proud to share that Spencer High School will hold a football banquet and retirement ceremony for Ernie's jersey number "49" on Saturday, January 20, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Ernie, a native of Columbus, Georgia, was a product of the Muscogee County public school system, and an alumnus of William H. Spencer High School's Class of 1958. Following high school, he enrolled at the University of Louisville, where he excelled in both football and baseball, rushing for 1,500 yards and being offered professional contracts for both sports.

After spending his college years at the University of Louisville in 1961, Ernie was drafted in the 14th round of the 1962 National Football League (NFL) Draft by the Green Bay Packers. He was later traded to the Cleveland Browns, where he played halfback and fullback from 1962 to 1968. During his career with the Cleveland Browns, he rushed for over 3,204 yards, and won the NFL Championship in 1964. Ernie also played on the winning teams in the American Football Conference (AFC)-National Football Conference (NFC) Pro Bowls in 1967 and 1968. Ernie played a total of seven seasons with the NFL, gaining 2,036 yards and 195 passes. After receiving a knee injury he made the transition from football player to field coach for the Browns' running backs.

After a successful career with the NFL, Ernie went on to become a businessman, civic leader, and philanthropist. In 1981, he co-founded Earnest Green (EG) Industries, Incorporated, a manufacturing plant that produces high quality products pertaining to the automotive, medical science, industrial, and consumer industries. Over time, his business expanded to include eleven plants, and locations in six states, Canada, the Dominican Republic, and China.

Ernie has received several awards and honors for his philanthropic efforts. Some of these include: the Outstanding Philanthropist of Ohio by the Association of Fundraising Professionals in 2010 and induction into the Cleveland Browns' Legends Association in 2012. Another noteworthy milestone of Ernie's is his 13th anniversary as a breast cancer survivor, which was achieved in 2018.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join my wife Vivian and me, along with the more than 730,000 residents of the Second Congressional District of Georgia, in congratulating and commending Mr. Earnest "Ernie" Green for his outstanding athleticism, compelling courage, keen sense of business, and dedication to philanthropy. It has been said that: "You make your living by what you get, but you make your life by what you give." Mr. Earnest "Ernie" Green truly made his life

giving so much to enhance the lives of so many for so long.

APPLY ALL DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE POSSIBLE TO NORTH KOREA

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, North Korea continues to be one of the great menaces of our time. Its relentless pursuit of nuclear weapons and the means to deliver them onto American shores, threatens the lives of millions and needlessly risks a major war.

However, this evil regime has not only looked to develop nuclear arms to hold the world hostage and murder countless innocent people. It is expanding its arsenal to introduce some of the most horrific weapons of war this world has ever seen. Based on what evidence is available, North Korea has built or continues to research a broad range of chemical and biological weapons that could unleash untold savagery on its neighbors and Americans in the region.

Furthermore, the regime has amassed the conventional military forces needed to rain down destruction on its southern neighbor on a scale approaching the level of carnage that a nuclear weapon can produce. Millions of people living in Seoul are within range of thousands of North Korean rockets and artillery.

On immediate order from the supreme leader, these guns can bombard the South Korean capital and dozens of communities along the demilitarize zone with high explosive shells and chemical warheads, killing tens of thousands of civilians in the first hour of a conflict. The urgency of the North Korean threat cannot be understated and must be understood in full context.

The regime has shown us its brutality and willingness to use globally condemned weapons. Just last year, Kim Jong Un's half-brother was assassinated using VX nerve agent in a busy Malaysian airport.

VX is banned by the Chemical Weapons Convention and is more potent than any other chemical weapon devised by man. Its ability to virtually kill on contact, gives little time to treat individuals exposed. And unlike other chemical weapons, it has the ability to sit for long periods of time where it was dispersed, creating a deadly obstacle for medical professionals trying to respond to a VX attack.

The recklessness of Little Kim's decision to use it in public place shows how little regard he has for innocent human life. With the availability of drone technology, the North Korean regime could easily spray the nerve agent across heavily populated areas. It is unclear how we should respond to such an incident. With nuclear weapons, we have a clearly stated policy: if you use yours, we will respond with ours.

We must develop and communicate a clear strategy to how we will respond if Little Kim were to use chemical or biological weapons in his next clash with the U.S. and South Korea. When the Syrian regime conducted a chemical attack on its own people in 2013, then-President Obama did not have a clearly held 'red-line.'